



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

383 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

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JOANNE STURGES, ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER
(213) 974-1411

April 11, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING ALLOCATION OF REWARD FUNDS IN THE MATTER OF THE ATTEMPTED MURDER OF ANABELLA VARA (ALL DISTRICTS)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve the recommendation of the Reward Committee to distribute reward funds in amount of \$10,000 to be paid from the Board's discretionary funds to the individual who provided information which led to the capture of Daniel Perez who was convicted in absentia on August 30, 1999 of the attempted murder of his estranged wife Anabella Vara in the City of South Gate.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office submitted a claim for the \$10,000 reward offered by your Board on behalf of an informant who wishes to remain anonymous. The District Attorney's Office and the United States Marshals Service believe that the arrest of Daniel Perez was due solely to the efforts of the informant. In accordance with the provisions of the County Code, your Board must now consider the claim and make a final determination for distribution of the reward funds.

In 1993, the Board of Supervisors adopted an amendment to the County Code that established procedures for offering cash rewards for information leading to the apprehension and/or conviction of persons guilty of criminal acts. Your Board, from time to time has offered such rewards to encourage citizens to come forward and assist law enforcement with their investigations.

A panel made up of individuals representing the Sheriff, the Chief Administrative Officer, the County Counsel and the Executive Officer of the Board reviewed the claim filed for the reward funds. The panel has recommended that \$10,000 be awarded to the informant based on the following information presented to the Reward Committee:

- On April 9, 1999, Anabella Vara was kidnapped and held at gunpoint by her estranged husband, Daniel Perez. Anabella Vara was able to escape in her vehicle, however Daniel Perez followed her car, ran her off the road, forced Anabella Vara to run for her life, and shot her in the back of her head, leaving her for dead. Anabella Vara survived the ordeal.
- Daniel Perez was arrested on April 9, 1999 and charged with kidnapping, attempted murder, false imprisonment, corporal injury to spouse, and stalking. Daniel Perez posted \$1,000,000 bail and was released for the trial scheduled to begin on August 23, 1999.
- Since Daniel Perez posted bail and was released Anabella Vara feared for her life so she requested to be placed under protective custody. On August 26, 1999 law enforcement detectives were able to make arrangements to place Anabella Vara in a "safe house" for the remainder of the trial.
- During the early morning hours of August 27, 1999, Daniel Perez broke into the San Bernardino home of Carlos Vara, the father of Anabella Vara. Daniel Perez entered the home through a window and shot and killed the father who testified against him the day before. It is believed that Daniel Perez fled to Mexico after committing this second crime.
- Despite fleeing to Mexico, on August 30, 1999, Daniel Perez was convicted and sentenced on October 26, 1999 in absentia to 33 years, 8 months to life, plus life imprisonment for the kidnapping, attempted murder, false imprisonment, corporal injury to spouse, and stalking of Anabella Vara. Daniel Perez is currently facing capital murder charges in the County of San Bernardino, for the murder of Carlos Vara.
- The informant became acquainted with Daniel Perez in Cancun, Mexico and quickly became suspicious of his identity. The informant on April 9, 1999 searched the internet looking for information on the new acquaintance and located the websites of "America's Most Wanted" and "escapingjustice.com" created by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. The informant immediately contacted the District Attorney's Office via the internet to provide information about Daniel Perez.

- Prior to his conviction Daniel Perez fled to Mexico. However, decisions of the Mexican Supreme Court effectively precluded unconditional extradition of Daniel Perez until November 29, 2005, when the Mexican Supreme Court ruled that criminal suspects facing life in prison sentences abroad can be extradited from Mexico for prosecution.
- After the Mexican Supreme Court reversed its ruling on November 29, 2005, Los Angeles County immediately sought the arrest of Daniel Perez by issuing a warrant for his arrest. On January 23, 2006 Daniel Perez was taken into custody by U.S. Marshals.
- The arrest and capture of Daniel Perez was only made possible by the continued flow of information provided by the informant, who at great risk conducted a covert investigation, tracking, obtaining surreptitious photographs, providing the address, marital status, vehicle information and day-to-day activities of Daniel Perez. The informant also met with and escorted representatives of the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Detail to Daniel Perez' home and place of employment.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the above recommendation supports the County Strategic Goal of Service Excellence. Posting of reward notices on the County website may encourage persons to provide information to law enforcement which could lead to the arrest and conviction of the individuals who commit crimes, thereby improving the quality of life to residents of Los Angeles County by removing such individuals from the community.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The Board of Supervisors established a \$10,000 reward fund. Pursuant to provisions in the County Code, the reward is to be paid from the Board of Supervisors' discretionary funds in equal shares of \$2,000 from each member's account.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The action recommended is in compliance with the County Code, Title 4 - Revenue and Finance relating to rewards; and specifically Section 4.50.010B which states, "conviction of the person or persons responsible for the crime shall be required for payment of a reward unless the Board of Supervisors makes a finding of impossibility of conviction due to the death or incapacity of such person or persons."

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The attached notice was posted on the Board of Supervisors' web site; in addition to copies being provided to the Sheriff's Department and South Gate Police Department. The filing period to submit a claim to the Executive Office for the reward money expired on December 19, 2005.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There is no impact on current County Services.

Respectfully submitted,



JOANNE STURGES
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attachment

R:\Reward Letters\Reward Letter regarding James Ramos.dot

c: District Attorney
Sheriff
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
County Counsel

**NOTICE OF \$10,000 REWARD
OFFERED BY THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles is offering a \$10,000 reward for any information leading to the capture of Daniel Perez who was convicted in absentia of the attempted murder of his estranged wife Anabella Vara in the City of South Gate and is believed to have fled to Mexico.

Any person having any information related to this crime is requested to call Detective Tony Alonzo at the South Gate Police Department at (323) 563-5457 and refer to Report No. DR 99-04020.

The terms of the reward provide that:

- The information given that leads to the determination of the identity, the apprehension and conviction of any person or persons must be given no later than December 19, 2005. All reward claims must be in writing and shall be received no later than February 17, 2006.
- The total County payment of any and all rewards shall in no event exceed \$10,000 and no claim shall be paid prior to conviction unless the Board of Supervisors makes a finding of impossibility of conviction due to the death or incapacity of the person or persons responsible for the crime or crimes.
- The County reward may be apportioned between various persons and/or paid for the conviction of various persons as the circumstances fairly dictate.

Any claims for the reward funds should be filed no later than February 17, 2006 with the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors, 500 West Temple Street, Room 383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Los Angeles, California 90012, Attention: Anabella Vara Reward Fund. For further information, please call (213) 974-1579.

Si no entiende esta noticia o si necesita mas informacion, favor de llamar a este numero (213) 974-1579.

VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES